



# THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

June 2024

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This column comes at the end of our 2023-2024 New Haven Bird Club year, and what a year it has been! We offered more than 10 indoor programs (including WingSpan game nights) and more than 50 outdoor walks and events. Leaders of our Club Committees and Special Programs worked tirelessly in support of their specific missions.

I want to thank everyone who participated, and especially everyone who assisted, in our many activities; none of our events or other programs could happen without the dedication and commitment of many volunteers, including all those members who graciously step up to help when help is needed. Sincere thanks to everyone for your contributions – in any form – to our Club.

One of the newer traditions of the Club is an annual President's Award. Deciding on the recipient of this award is always tough because so many important contributions are made to the Club by so many people. However, one person stood out to me this year. At our annual banquet on May 9, I was honored to recognize Pat Leahy as recipient of the New Haven Bird Club President's Award for 2024.

Pat joined the New Haven Bird Club in 1985 and immediately became an extremely important and active volunteer. He and

his wife Cathy are now Life Members of the Club. In spite of the fact that he stepped down from the Board this year (after almost continuous Board membership for nearly four decades), he continues his assistance to this very day. His impact really can't be described; some of the many Board positions he's held started with being Liaison to Audubon Connecticut, up to his most recent position as our web page manager (we've come a long way since our website was first set up as a "members" page on AOL!). And how can we not mention the delicious dinners Pat and Cathy have been cooking and providing for the Christmas Bird Counts!

Many of you know about the hundreds of bluebird houses Pat has built, and the work he's done to install and maintain them on New Haven Regional Water Authority properties. With special permission from the Water Authority, he has been leading walks to those areas for many years. We're extremely pleased that Pat agreed to allow the Club to officially adopt and support his "Bluebird Trails" as a new Special Program. This will allow continuation of that project into the foreseeable future.

When I asked Pat what words he'd like me to pass on to you all, he said, "Let everyone know I like the people and I like the birds." I'm sure the feeling is mutual on both accounts. Thank you, Pat, and congratulations.

--Chris Howe

## 2024 CALENDAR

*(See inside for details)*

Saturday, June 1, 8–10:30 a.m. **Bauer Farm (Bauer Park), Madison**

Sunday, June 2, 7–10 a.m. **Chippens Hill Grassland Birds, Bristol**

Wednesday, June 5, 8–11 a.m. **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park, Cornwall**

Saturday–Sunday, June 8–9 **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

Wednesday, June 12, 7:30–11 a.m. **Lake Watrous, Woodbridge**

Saturday, July 13 **Connecticut Bobolink and Wildlife Festival in Durham**



Chris Howe presents the NHBC President's Award to Pat Leahy at the Lake Chamberlain Walk. Photo by Celeste Echlin

## NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB – 2023-2024

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com	203-530-1066
<i>Vice President</i>	(vacant)	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Celeste Echlin cechlin151@gmail.com	860-485-2567
<i>Secretary</i>	Michele McDermott mmcdermott1029@snet.net	860-485-3087

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203-230-1697
<i>Education/Outreach Chair</i>	Meg Bollin maeganbollin@gmail.com	860-806-2509
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Gail Martino gmm1227@yahoo.com	617-504-7205
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Albert Laguna albert.laguna@gmail.com	201-401-2684
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Glen Cummings gmc2@comcast.net	203-228-8072
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Laurie Reynolds warmstove@hotmail.com	203-434-2134
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford donnabatsford@gmail.com	203-787-1642
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	NHBC Executive Board	
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	DeWitt Allen allendatlow@gmail.com	860-949-0995
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Emmeline Kaiser emkaiser03@gmail.com	225-368-7273
<i>Website Chair</i>	(vacant)	
<i>Yearbook Editor</i>	Christine Howe clhowe2@yahoo.com	203-530-1066

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT</i>	Craig Repasz crepasz@hotmail.com	203-230-1697
<i>Bluebird Trail</i>	Pat Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203-393-2427
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closalz@optonline.net	203-389-6508
<i>Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com	203-551-1707
<i>Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203-758-7203
<i>Hospitality</i>	Joyce Alton joyceharned@hotmail.com	203-651-9712
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo scmayo999@gmail.com	203-551-1707
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203-288-0621

**New Haven Bird Club Website:**  
[www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

## Notes from the Board

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 27.

Deadline for submissions to the next *Chickadee* is July 26. Send to Newsletter Editor, Donna Batsford, at [donnabatsford@gmail.com](mailto:donnabatsford@gmail.com).

NHBC Objectives: To make available to members and the general public opportunities for recreation, education, and appreciation in the area of birding and to encourage the conservation of natural resources in New Haven and surrounding areas.

If you are not receiving email notifications, contact us at [membership@newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:membership@newhavenbirdclub.org) to receive an invitation to join this group.

Every effort is made to list member information accurately in the yearbook. Please inform us of errors and update us with any changes during the year. Update via the Club website or send an email to [membership@newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:membership@newhavenbirdclub.org).

## Deer Lake Earth Day



The New Haven Bird Club hosted a table at Deer Lake's Earth Day event on April 27th 2024. The day featured hiking and guided walks, vendors such as Peace Love Books and Action Trackchair and a BBQ food truck. Live music played throughout the day and the DEEP ran a fishing seminar. The day finished with the announcement of winners of the silent auction. We had a great time talking to many people about the work of the New Haven Bird Club and overall, it was wonderful way to connect with the community and celebrate Earth Day.

--Maegan Bollin

## Welcome New Members

Laura Fawcett New Haven	Adam and Jo Fasciolo Norwalk	
Allan Welby Ridgefield	Sue Caperino Hamden	Christine Hayes Hamden
John Duddy Old Saybrook	Denis Caron Middletown	

**NOTE:** Please check the NHBC website and newsletter periodically for updated information on all programs. **Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled** and events may be added during the year. [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

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## Indoor Programs

**Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.**

Indoor programs start in September and are held on the second Thursday of the month. There are no indoor programs in June, July, or August. This year, we plan to resume meeting at the Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT 06517. The facility is wheelchair accessible. **The social half-hour begins at 7 p.m.; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 p.m. and end about 9 p.m.**

**Some indoor programs are held only as virtual, online presentations and noted as such in the descriptions.**

Cancellation Policy: Inclement weather or other emergency may cancel in-person meetings. Cancellation notices will be sent via the Club email and posted on the CTBirds listserv when possible.

### The Whitney Center

We hold our monthly meetings in the Whitney Center's Cultural Arts Center, in the South Building, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden CT. Enter via the main door of the portico at the front of the building. Turn right down the hallway. The Cultural Arts Center is a short distance on the left.

**PARKING:** Enter the Whitney Center's South Entrance, marked with a sign. Either make an immediate left into the raised parking lot (park *only* in the upper level and *only* in unnumbered spaces) or follow the main driveway past the front entrance of the building. At the stop sign, turn right into the visitor and employee parking area and walk back from there to the front entrance.

**NOTE:** Please check the NHBC website and newsletter periodically for updated information on all programs. Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled and events may be added during the year. [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org)

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## Indoor Program Reports

The New Haven Bird Club's Annual Meeting on April 11, featured a presentation by Joel Tolman, Director of Community Impact & Engagement at Common Ground High School, highlighting the organization's mission and impact. Thirty-eight members attended, both in person and online.



Joel Tolman  
Photo by Gail Martino

Upcoming events at Common Ground include Open Farm Day every Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM. For more information, reach out to Joel Tolman at [jtolman@commonground.org](mailto:jtolman@commonground.org) or visit Common Ground's website at [www.commongroundct.org](http://www.commongroundct.org).

Additionally, attendees enjoyed refreshments provided by Joyce Alton, which included lemon bars, peach crumble, and banana cake with frosting!



Mark Seth Lender with his wife and partner Valerie Pettis  
Photo by Gail Martino

The 2024 New Haven Bird Club Banquet featured speaker Mark Seth Lender, a renowned wildlife photographer and Explorer in Residence at Living on Earth. He shared captivating stories and photographs from his interactions with wild animals in the Antarctic Ocean, including encounters with penguins, giant petrels, and a leopard seal.

The event was held on May 9 at Amarante's Restaurant in New Haven and was attended by 88 members. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed the evening, appreciating the engaging presentation and the opportunity to socialize and share their passion for birding and wildlife. We look forward to the 2025 banquet!

--Gail Martino

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## Outdoor Programs

The future course of the coronavirus pandemic may continue to affect our schedule of events. Our first priority is protecting the health and well-being of our members and the general public, and it may become necessary to adjust or cancel some events. The recommendations and policies of local, state, and national health authorities will guide all decisions about our schedule. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter for updated information before planning to attend any event.

**Cancellation Policy:** Inclement weather or other emergencies may cancel a field trip. Check the NHBC website *or contact the leader of the trip directly* if you have any questions about a possible cancellation.

Birders of all levels are welcome on all field trips, and every effort is made to help beginners. If you are new to birding or have any special needs, be sure to let the leader know. The Club welcomes everyone regardless of age, race or ethnicity, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, or national origin. The ending times of walks are approximate.

More details and/or updates on these trips will be given at the indoor meetings. Please check the NHBC website and newsletter periodically for updated information on all programs. **Scheduled events may need to be changed or canceled** and events may be added during the year. *Contact trip leaders directly if you have questions about any of their trips.*

The New Haven Bird Club does not charge any fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless the Club makes prior arrangements. Carpooling is usually encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of natural resources, but check current coronavirus recommendations.

### NHBC Conservation and Education Activities

The New Haven Bird Club routinely works to preserve and restore bird populations and their habitats and to provide opportunities for learning about birds, where to see them, and how to help ensure their future. Additional environmentally-focused, family-friendly walks may be planned and posted on the NHBC website.

The NHBC has been developing relationships with local public schools and camps to encourage children to embrace birding. We view this activity as directly connected to our Club objectives, and usually present a very basic birding skills class followed by a nearby bird walk. The Education Chair also organizes the Club's representation at various public events throughout the year.

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#### **Bauer Farm (Bauer Park), Madison**

**Saturday, June 1, 8–10:30 a.m.**

Join nationally recognized wildlife artist and birder Mike DiGiorgio for a walk to look for resident and migrating songbirds. We'll explore the fields, gardens and woodland trails. Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Meet at the Community Gardens parking area, 257 Copse Road, Madison.

Leader: Mike DiGiorgio, [mdigiorgio@comcast.net](mailto:mdigiorgio@comcast.net)

#### **Chippens Hill Grassland Birds, Bristol**

**Sunday, June 2, 7–10 a.m.**

The Chippens Hill area of Bristol has historically been farmland. The Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut and the city of Bristol are working to save some of the habitat where Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, and Grasshopper Sparrows have been found. Join Jack Swatt for a tour of these areas in search of these declining species. Bring plenty of water and be prepared to walk in sunny field habitat that may contain ticks. Meet at the Roberts Field parking lot on Perkins Street in Bristol, just north of the intersection with Pinehurst Road.

Leader: Jack Swatt, 203-592-4686 or [jswattbirds@gmail.com](mailto:jswattbirds@gmail.com)

#### **First Wednesday Walk: Mohawk Mountain State Park, Cornwall**

**Wednesday, June 5, 8–11 a.m.**

Greg Hanisek, one of the best birders in the state, will lead the walk in this scenic and spacious forest in the northern part of

the state. Nesting species here include Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Canada Warbler, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Meet at the entrance to Mohawk Mountain State Park on Route 4 in Cornwall, four miles west of Goshen.

Leader: Greg Hanisek, [ctgreg@yahoo.com](mailto:ctgreg@yahoo.com)

#### **New Haven Summer Bird Count**

**Saturday–Sunday, June 8–9**

This is a wonderful opportunity to work on your song identification skills and see what birds are nesting in your area. For the names of area captains and other information, contact Steve Mayo. Meet at various points.

Coordinator Steve Mayo, 203-551-1707, [scmayo999@gmail.com](mailto:scmayo999@gmail.com)

#### **Lake Watrous, Woodbridge**

**Wednesday, June 12, 7:30–11 a.m.**

Join Pat Leahy for a walk on protected Regional Water Authority property in Woodbridge. Views of the lake and dam, some wetlands and lakeside forest. Walking is not strenuous and on a well-maintained road. Meet at Lake Chamberlain Regional Water Authority parking area on Sperry Road south of Morris Road, Bethany. We will carpool to Lake Watrous from there.

Leader: Pat Leahy, 203-314-0566 or [ptjleahy@yahoo.com](mailto:ptjleahy@yahoo.com)

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## Trip Reports

### Osbornedale State Park Trip Report

On April 21<sup>st</sup> twenty-six of us spent the morning looking for birds at Kellogg Environmental Center and Osbornedale State Park. We were rewarded with Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers, an American Kestrel being harassed by three Blue Jays, Wood Ducks, Hooded Merganser, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed and Red Shouldered Hawks, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Eastern Blue Birds, a plethora of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Towhees, and Gray Catbird. We had forty-one species in all.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

--Maria Stockmal

### Bent of the River Trip Report

On Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> an intrepid group met at Bent of the River Audubon Center in Southbury to take a stroll through the early successional fields and oak hickory forests to see what early spring migrants were out and about. In the parking lot as we gathered we were serenaded by Field Sparrows and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (along with the recordings of Purple Martins played to entice in any future gourd homemakers) as well as a beautiful Bald Eagle flyover. Our walk started with a path along the Ponperaug River with good looks at Common Mergansers and other late winter common birds. We stopped at the barn to check out the feeders with some beautifully adorned White-throated Sparrows and continued through the rehabbed apple orchard in hopes of seeing or hearing some early spring warblers. We moved through some quiet forest sections chasing Black-throated Green Warbler songs and hoped for Indigo Buntings and Prairie Warblers to no avail. As we made our way back through field and forest we finally got a look at a Blue-winged Warbler and heard and discussed the habits of the early returner, the Louisiana Waterthrush. An enjoyable day with wonderfully engaged people created a great start to the spring birding season.



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

--Morgan Evans

### First Wednesday Walk East Rock Park Trip Report



Photo by DeWitt Allen

On May 1st we had our annual first wednesday walk at East Rock Park in New Haven. Migration was light, but we did have a number of warblers including a Hooded Warbler near Trowbridge. A cooperative Eastern Screech Owl was a highlight. We also had Orchard Orioles and a Green Heron across the street at the CT Trust Property.

--John Oshlick

### River Road, Kent Trip Report

On May 4<sup>th</sup> eighteen birders met at the train station in Kent then carpoled to the Appalachian Trail trailhead parking lot on River Road. At the parking area we were greeted by a chorus of American Redstarts. We slowly worked our way down River Road with occasional looks at the Housatonic River. We did get to see a few Cerulean Warblers. Scarlet Tanagers were singing in the distance but did not come in for us. We got good looks at nesting Blue Gray Gnatcatchers. It was a quiet day. That gave us an opportunity to view some spring ephemerals. We had 54 species in 2.1 miles.



--Craig Repasz

### Hartman Park, Lyme Trip Report



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On May 8th we had our annual Hartman Park walk. Unfortunately heavy rain and thunderstorms cut it short, but we did find several Cerulean Warblers singing in the parking lot. Our brief walk in the woods produced a Worm-eating Warbler and Scarlet Tanager.

--John Oshlick

### East Rock Park, New Haven Trip Report



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

Sixteen birders took part in the May 9<sup>th</sup> field trip to East Rock Park, the morning of the NHBC Banquet. We began with an introduction to this historic trap rock ridge, using topographic and East Rock Park maps. We then walked the trail to the archery field, where we found territorial House Wrens, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeding on Autumn Olive flowers, and a fly-over Common Loon. Good views of Veery, Swainson's Thrush, and Wood Thrush were highlights. Trowbridge Drive produced eight species of wood-warblers (including Blackburnian and Black-throated Blue Warblers), as well as territorial forest breeders (woodpeckers, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak). Alan Malina took a very nice series of photos of a Red-tailed Hawk perched in a tree, dining on an Eastern Chipmunk. Our total was 33 bird species: (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S173920689>).

Relocating to the parking lot at Eli Whitney Museum and the covered bridge, we walked the Mill River trail to the iron bridge and back. At the bridge, we found both Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, three Lesser Yellowlegs (best birds for me), the mated gray morph and red morph Eastern Screech-Owls in an American Beech, Warbling Vireos, Baltimore Orioles, Northern Waterthrush, and Wilson's Warbler (at "the Wilpon's corner"). Alan Malina photographed a family of Mallards and also the three Lesser Yellowlegs, and Bob Olsen took nice photos of the screech-owl breeding pair. This part of the trip produced 38 bird species: (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S173929460>)

East Rock Park has figured prominently in the history of NHBC field trips. Over the years, the park has been most closely linked with Richard English, whose "Recent Sightings" reports at indoor meetings drew primarily from his observations at the park, Flo McBride for her years of educating school children on the wonders of birds in the park, and Bill Batsford, who has set the standard for year-round, long-term records of the bird life of East Rock Park.

--Steve Broker

### **Sleeping Giant State Park Trip Report**

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful Saturday morning, 28 birders joined our leader Jim Sirch and started slowly up the gravelly but wide and smooth Tower Path at Sleeping Giant State Park in search of breeding birds and migrants that might be passing through. Immediately a Northern Parula kept the group busy in searching through the foliage for the singer. As we continued up the path, we were eventually rewarded not only with sights of the Parula, but with numerous Black-and-white Warblers, Yellow Warblers, an Ovenbird, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and consistently singing but hard to locate Worm-eating Warblers and then a Bay-breasted Warbler. Other highlights were the always crowd-pleasing favorites Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Great-crested Flycatchers, and Eastern Towhees that performed up close for our photos and binocular viewing. Sleeping Giant always rewards our presence, and the group identified a total of 40 species on the walk up to and beyond the Giant's chin.

--DeWitt Allen

### **Naugatuck State Forest Trip Report**

On Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day!), about one dozen members of the New Haven Bird Club ventured to the Naugatuck State Forest West Block for our annual field trip there. There was the threat of rain, but it held off until the last hour of our trip and was only a very light mist, so it didn't interfere with our birding activities much. We began our journey by walking through the brushy fields south of the parking area near the end of Hunters Mountain Road. Along the edge of the fields, we saw Prairie and Chestnut-sided Warblers and heard Yellow-billed Cuckoos. We hiked through the woods and saw and heard Veery, Eastern Towhee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Yellow-throated Vireo. We got to the woodland pond and found the water level quite high due to beaver activity. Notable species seen here included a female Hooded Merganser, a Red-shouldered Hawk and a Canada Goose nesting on the beaver lodge (!). A little further along the trail we came to a power line cut where there were more Prairie and Chestnut-sided Warblers as well as Blue-winged Warbler. We then made our way to the Ravine Trail, the most scenic part of our journey. There, the trail parallels a stream that cascades down the mountain through a mixed hemlock and deciduous forest. It's quite scenic all the way down, and there is even an impressive waterfall that brings water down a steep hillside into the meandering stream. At the beginning of the trail, we heard and saw an Acadian Flycatcher. We were treated to great looks at a Louisiana Waterthrush along the stream, and we heard a Worm-eating Warbler calling from the nearby hillside. When we made it to the end of the ravine trail, we were pleased

to hear a Hooded Warbler singing in the woods there. At this point, our journey took us along Black Forest Road where we saw and heard more birds, including an out-of-place Great Blue Heron as it flew up from the small woodland stream. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are relatively abundant in these woods and we saw and heard them at numerous points during our hike. We even saw one go into a nest hole!

The Naugatuck State Forest is a beautiful preserve and a wonderful place to see and hear birds, especially in the spring. We observed a total of 61 species on this walk. We will look forward to returning to the forest again next year when we hope to see and hear even more birds.

--Chris Loscalzo

### **Whip-poor-will Walk in Naugatuck State Forest Trip Report**

On Friday night, May 17<sup>th</sup>, eleven birders met at the Naugatuck State Forest parking area at the end of Hunters Mountain Rd. at 8:00. Although the skies were cloudy, the nearly full moon occasionally shone through the thin veil of clouds. As we waited for dusk to fall we listened to the chorus of Wood Thrushes, Veeries and even a Scarlet Tanager and Yellow-throated Vireo singing. As we were about to venture out on the trail to the clearcut, a loud repeating Whip-poor-will song rang out from the area right near the gate. In the periphery of a flashlight beam, the bird was spotted sitting on a large rock, and frequently the yellow eyeshine was interrupted as the bird occasionally blinked. After everyone was able to get good looks at it, it took off undetected, but was again heard calling from further up the trail. As we eventually headed up the trail, the bird was again seen in the dim light of the flashlights as it flew further up the trail. We kept hearing the periodic repeated calls of the Whip-poor-will throughout our travels around the clearcut trail, sometimes close and sometimes distant. We could never confirm that there was more than one bird singing, but given the distance of some of the calls, it wouldn't surprise me if more than one of them was present that night. We were hoping that there may have been some American Woodcock still giving flight displays, but none would make an appearance for us. For several of the birders, it was their first experience hearing the boisterous call of the Whip-poor-will, but all of us hope it will not be our last.

--Jack Swatt

### **Julius M. Hansen Park, North Haven Trip Report**

May 18<sup>th</sup> was an overcast morning with a slight chance of rain. 20 birders gathered in the parking lot and quickly moved to the meadow for shrubland birds. On our way we had fly-over Great Blue Heron and Mallards. The meadow did have some singing Blue-winged Warblers. We were prevented from going further into the meadow by high water at a stream crossing. We turned our attention to the woods along the ridge for Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager and persistent Red-eyed Vireos. The woods were relatively quiet as we made our way to the second meadow where we had Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Tree and Barn Swallows. Our luck with the weather changed as the rain



started. The walk was cut short because of the weather. One Eastern Kingbird appeared as we were leaving the meadow. We had 43 species in 1.72 miles.

--Craig Repasz

### Lake Chamberlain Trip Report



Photo by Laurie Reynolds

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> we had 26 people on a perfectly lovely day with plenty of swallows - at least 3 per birder! The walk was short just going from the parking lot and walking across the dam to the forest on the far side. We had lots

of Tree Swallows, some Barn Swallows and a few Rough-wing Swallows to compare. There were a number of good passerines including a couple of Bluebirds, lots of Red-wings, a couple of Indigo Buntings and a few usual warblers including Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, Yellow and Common Yellow-throat. It was fun to see a flock of 4 Spotted Sandpipers looking for a good place to forage. Large birds included a Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vultures, a Red-tailed Hawk and 2 Red-shouldered Hawks. I think the highlights of the day were watching the swallows fly-catch and enjoying the wonderful weather. I plan on adding another walk there in the fall, hopefully when the leaves are changing.

--Pat Leahy

### Barn Island Wildlife Management Area Trip Report

On Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 17 birders went for an all-morning walk at the Barn Island WMA in Stonington, at the far southeast corner of our state. We had a beautiful day for birding, with pleasant temperatures, mostly sunny skies, and a light wind. We walked the trails past the four impoundments



Photo by Chris Howe

(the marshy portion of the refuge), then through the woods, along a back country road to a small farm, then back through the refuge, passing through a brushy field and more woods. We passed by the impoundments again as we headed back to our starting point. The property is scenic and full of wildlife, especially birds. Some

of the notable birds we saw on our walk included: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, including a male doing its display flight, Killdeer in the farm fields, Great Blue Heron and Belted Kingfisher at the farm pond, Semipalmated Plover and lots of Willets in the marsh, a Cooper's Hawk flying high over the marsh, an adult Bald Eagle doing the same, Willow Flycatcher doing its "fitz-bew" call repeatedly at the edge of the marsh, several Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, a dazzling pair of Orchard Orioles in the brushy field, lots of Yellow Warblers everywhere and a few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. We observed 72 species in total, even though we missed several common species. We'll go back there again next spring, hoping to see even more birds.

--Chris Loscalzo

### Lake Dawson Trip Report



Photo by Chris Howe

On May 29<sup>th</sup> we had 10 people to enjoy yet another perfect weather day in Woodbridge. The property below the Lake Dawson dam has several different wonderful areas to bird. I was pleased to find my biggest day count for Bluebirds with 5, two pairs and a juvenile being fed a big wormy thing by mom. We had most of the swallow family with Tree, Barn, and Rough-wing. A couple of Cedar Waxwings and a Chimney Swift added to the list of flycatchers in the area. We were

able to compare Turkey and Black Vultures in a mixed flock. Other highlights were a Willow Flycatcher and an Orchard Oriole. Just like last week, it was a wonderful way to spend a spring morning in a beautiful place.

--Pat Leahy

### New Haven Bird Club Co-sponsored the Architectural Tour: Bird-friendly Buildings at Yale with Lights Out Connecticut.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> the New Haven Bird Club co-sponsored the Architectural Tour: Bird-Friendly Buildings at Yale with Lights Out Connecticut. In a break from traditional bird walks the event focused on efforts to monitor bird collisions and to retrofit windows to protect birds from window collisions.

The walk was led by Lights Out Connecticut co-founder Meredith Barges, co-author of "Building Safer Cities for Birds: How Cities Are Leading the Way on Bird-Friendly Building Policy" (American Bird Conservancy and the Law, Ethics and Animals Program at Yale Law School, 2023).

The tour covered Evans Hall and the newly renovated Peabody Museum, buildings that have been monitored by the Yale Bird Friendly Building Initiative with hundreds of bird collisions being recorded each migratory season. The glass on all of Evans Hall facades reflects the sky and the trees that surround the building, causing the birds to collide. It is estimated that in the United States up to two billion birds are killed in collisions with building glass (Klem 2024). The building maintenance department at Evans Hall has taken some steps to make some of the glass bird friendly. The glass treatments include dots that are spaced two inches apart. Areas that have these treated windows report zero window collisions. These bird friendly glass methods are easily replicated in homes. Light pollution plays a major role in window collisions by disorienting migrating birds and pulling them into our towns and cities where they are exposed to glass buildings. Meredith explained that Yale has a new policy that any new buildings and major renovations will need to be bird friendly. Peabody Museum's renovations have included bird friendly glass.

--Craig Repasz

# NHBC Winter Feeder Report 2023-2024

## Final Report



WHAT A YEAR! This year there were no Bear attacks on feeders, but 2 Surveyors waited till week 6 to start their surveys. We started with 19 Surveyors, and one dropped out over the course of the survey. We had only one snowstorm this year where there was anywhere from 3 to 12 inches of snow. The snow stayed around for about a week. The total number of species seen for the year was 53. Our numbers were down a little bit from last year.

Purple finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen sporadically throughout the whole survey. A major question to me during ¾ of the survey was: “Where are the American Goldfinches?” They came back around week 20. Common Grackle flocks of 100 or greater were flying around in weeks 12 to 14. Brown-headed Cowbirds and European Starlings were flocking during the last 6 weeks of the survey.

*DEEP and restriction of bird feeders.* Martha Asarisi reported: “Went to a DEEP Black Bear Lecture. They want to mandate the state to prohibit bird feeders from 4/1 to 12/1. I guess 10 towns have adopted this policy for their towns and have seen 66% decrease in bear issues.”

*DEEP Press Release 04/09/2024:* DEEP and Audubon Society Urge Residents to Take Down Birdfeeders as Bear Activity Increases. The DEEP Wildlife Division advises against feeding birds during the warmer times of the year, typically from late March into December. Feeding during these times often leads to conflicts with black bears. Currently, it is only a suggestion.

Currently our survey has two time periods of feeder surveying, the major one starting around the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and ending around the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and is 22 weeks long for those who have not had any problems with Black Bears. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one starts around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December and ends around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March and is 13 weeks long. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one starts about 6 weeks after the 1<sup>st</sup> one starts and ends about 4 weeks before the 1<sup>st</sup> ends so that the feeders are available when the Black Bears are dormant.

We had 19 surveyors this year, and again we were widely scattered around New Haven County and with three surveyors outside New Haven County.

### ***The last six weeks (17-22):***

There was a total of 45 species of birds reported in the last 6 weeks of the survey.

*Common List:* We had 22 of 22 species. All were seen by 10 or more surveyors. White-throated Sparrows were not seen by 2 surveyors in the last 6 weeks.

*Semi-Common List:* We had 11 of 12 Species reported. Redwing Blackbirds came back and were seen by 11 surveyors. Wild Turkey was not reported.

*Uncommon List:* There were 8 species reported out of 42 species. They were Black Vulture, Brown Creeper, Fish Crow,

Pileated Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rusty Blackbird, Turkey Vulture, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

*Waterfowl list:* 4 out of 9 waterfowl species were reported. Great Blue Heron, Herring Gull, Mallard, Wood Duck.

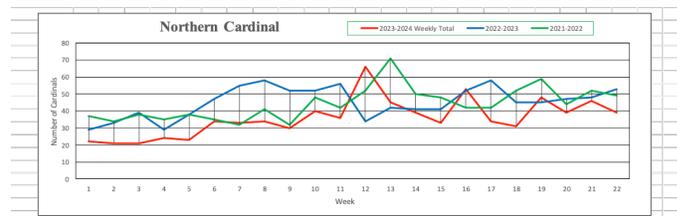
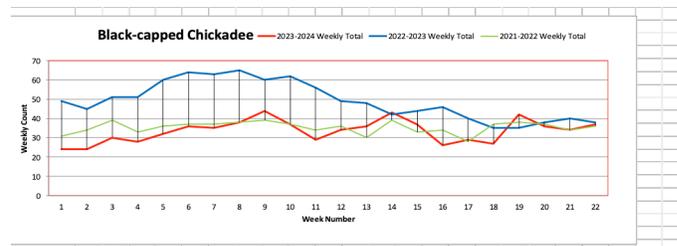
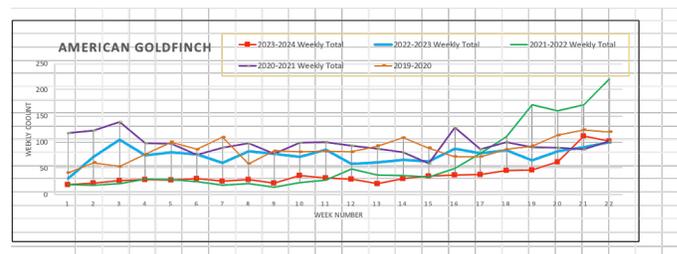
*Animal List:* 9 out of 26 animals were reported. Gray Squirrel, Chipmunk, Black Squirrel, Brown Rat, Feral Cat, Mole, Opossum, Rabbit, Raccoon, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, Skunk, and White-tailed Deer.

I have attached graphs of 5 species, with 3 trend lines, one for each year:

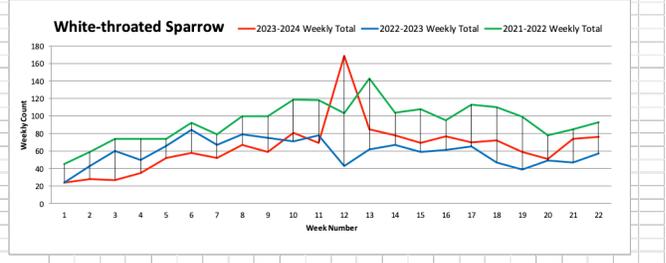
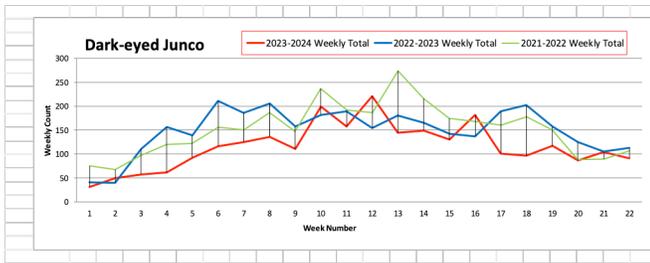
2023-2024 Red, 2022-2023 Blue and 2021-2022 Green. In the American Goldfinch graph, I have added years 2020-2021 and 2019-2020.

A look at the graphs shows that the American Goldfinch started climbing slowly at the end of the survey but remained well below the previous years. The Black-capped Chickadee in week 19 exceeded the last two years and then dropped back down. The Northern Cardinal were lower than the previous two years. Of our two winter species the Dark-eyed Junco was way lower than the previous two years and the White-throated Sparrow came in the middle of the last two years.

### Normally Seen all Year Long



## Winter Species



Lists showing the species covered and the maximum number seen for that species in any one week of the survey by all the surveyors.

Common species	Semi Common	Uncommon Species	Water Fowl	Animals
American Crow	Chipping Sparrow	American Tree Sparrow	American Black Duck	Gray Squirrel
American Goldfinch	Eastern Bluebird	American Woodcock	Canada Goose	Chipmunk
American Robin	Fox Sparrow	Baltimore Oriole (Northern)	Great Blue Heron	Black Bear
Black-capped Chickadee	Northern Flicker	Barred Owl	Herring Gull	Black Squirrel
Blue Jay	Northern Mockingbird	Belted Kingfisher	Hooded Merganser	Bob Cat
Brown-headed Cowbird	Purple Finch	Black Vulture	Mallard	Brown Rat
Carolina Wren	Red-tailed Hawk	Blackpoll Warbler	Northern Pin Tail	Coyote
Common Grackle	Red-winged Blackbird	Broad-winged Hawk	Ring-billed Gull	Eastern Red Bat
Cooper's Hawk	Rock Dove (Pigeon)	Brown Creeper	Wood Duck	Feral Cat
Dark-eyed Junco	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cedar Waxwing		Fisher
Downy Woodpecker	Wild Turkey	Common Redpoll		Flying Squirrel
European Starling	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Eastern Kingbird		Gray Fox
Hairy Woodpecker		Eastern Phoebe		Ground Hog
House Finch		Eastern Towhee		Mole
House Sparrow		Evening Grosbeak		Mouse
Mourning Dove		Field Sparrow		Opossum
Northern Cardinal		Fish Crow		Rabbit
Red-bellied Woodpecker		Golden-crowned Kinglet		Raccoon
Song Sparrow		Gray Cat Bird		Red Fox
Tufted Titmouse		Hermit Thrush		Red Squirrel
White-breasted Nuthatch		Kestrel		Short-tailed Rat
White-throated Sparrow		Lincoln Sparrow		Short-tailed Shrew
		Merlin		Skunk
		Monk Parakeet		Vole
		Nashville Warbler		Weasel
		Northern Harrier		White Tail Deer
		Pileated Woodpecker		Woodchuck
		Pine Siskin		
		Pine Warbler		
		Raven		
		Red-breasted Nuthatch		
		Red-shouldered Hawk		
		Ruby-crowned Kinglet		
		Rusty Blackbird		
		Savannah Sparrow		
		Swamp Sparrow		
		Turkey Vulture		
		Vesper Sparrow		
		White-crowned Sparrow		
		Winter Wren		
		Wood Thrush		
		Yellow-rumped Warbler		

--Pete Vitali  
Chairman: NHBC Winter Feeder Survey

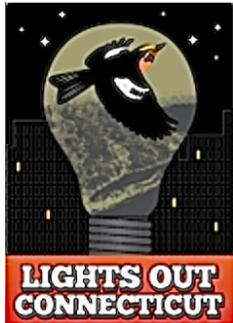


# Connecticut Bobolink and Wildlife Festival in Durham Saturday July 13, 2024

*This free festival is made possible through the partnership of New Haven Bird Club and a grant from Coginchaug Valley Education Foundation with Birding for Pleasure in Durham & Middlefield.*



**Session 1.** @ Frederick White Farm 8:00 - 9:30 a.m  
Bobolinks, Grasslands and More About Habitats with Quinnipiac Audubon  
Divide into small groups and walk with expert bird guides.  
*Register at the Durham Library calendar - <https://durhamlibrary.org>*



**Session 5 - check link soon**  
12 - 1 p.m. Lunch available to  
reserve at <https://durhamlibrary.org>

**Session 2.** @ Durham Community Center  
**\*\*\*Presentations and Vendor Tables Begin at 9:30\*\*\***  
10:00 a.m. **Introduction**  
10:15 a.m. **Lights Out Connecticut and the Odyssey of Migratory Birds** with  
Craig Repasz, New Haven Bird Club  
11:10 - 12 p.m. **Birding by Sound** with Ken Elkins, CT Audubon  
*Register at the Durham Library calendar - <https://durhamlibrary.org>*

**Session 3.** @ Frederick White Farm 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
**Bobolinks, Grasslands and More About Habitats**  
Divide into small groups and walk with expert bird guides.  
*Register at the Durham Community Center on day of bird walk.*



**Session 4.** @ Kalmia Gardens at Gastler Farm 2:15 - 4:15 p.m.  
**Bird and Nature Journaling with Alicia Shogry and Jan Wenzel**  
*Register at the Durham Library calendar - <https://durhamlibrary.org>*

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### **Bird and Nature Journaling Workshop** **Instructors: Alicia Shogry and Jan Wenzel** **Description**

We will talk about some basic materials and drawing techniques to get you started on your nature journaling. From live nature studies to pencil sketches and adding color, you'll learn how to record your scientific discoveries while adding your own artistic style.

Nature journaling prompts will be provided as a guide to your adventure in observing and recording nature. We will split into smaller work groups. Art supplies will be included or bring your own.

### Location Addresses

Frederick White Farm 70 Maple Ave Durham, CT	Durham Community Center 144 Pickett Lane Durham CT	Kalmia Gardens at Gastler Farm 59 Middlefield Rd Durham, CT
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### **Lights Out Connecticut and the Odyssey of Migratory Birds with Craig Repasz**

Come explore the amazing journeys that migratory birds make twice each year. This presentation will fill you with awe and wonder for the natural world, while you learn easy steps you can take at home to help protect migratory birds during their epic journeys through our backyard.

Craig Repasz is a founder and Co-Chair of Lights Out Connecticut, a statewide organizing and advocacy campaign of Menunkatuck Audubon Society. Craig is also president of the Friends of Stewart B McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. He is a past president of the New Haven Bird Club and currently serves as its conservation chair.

### **Birding by Sound with Ken Elkins**

Learn to recognize the songs and calls of local bird species. Ken Elkins is currently the Director of Connecticut Audubon's Coastal Center at Milford Point. The sheer volume of songs and calls often seem overwhelming but each of these sounds offer a curious opportunity and challenge. Ken will help you build your birding skills and love of birds by learning how to bird-by-ear and listen to lesser-known musicians such as frogs, toads and stridulating insects.



**NEW HAVEN BIRD CLUB**  
**P.O. BOX 9004**  
**NEW HAVEN, CT 06532-0004**

**June 2024**

**NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code / Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$15                      \_\_\_\_\_ Family - \$20  
\_\_\_\_\_ Supporting - \$50                      \_\_\_\_\_ Student under 18 - Free  
\_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership - \$300 for 1 or 2 people at same address.

Additional gift to support NHBC programs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to New Haven Bird Club and send to:  
New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004

You can also join or renew membership at the NHBC website with credit card or PayPal.

The NHBC membership year is from July 1 to June 30. New members joining between January 1 and June 30 are given full membership for the rest of the current year and for the whole next membership year.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

New Haven Bird Club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All dues and donations are fully tax-deductible. If you work for a company that gives matching grants, please take advantage of the offer. It's free and helps NHBC's program budget.

The Club welcomes everyone irrespective of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

If your address, phone or email change, please send that information to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004, New Haven CT 06532-0004 or [membership@newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:membership@newhavenbirdclub.org).

The NHBC website, [www.newhavenbirdclub.org](http://www.newhavenbirdclub.org), offers information about the Club, its programs, and other Club and member news. If you have any questions, please email us at [ask@newhavenbirdclub.org](mailto:ask@newhavenbirdclub.org).

CTBirds is an open discussion email list provided by the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) to discuss birds and birding in the state, <http://www.ctbirding.org>.